

South Dakota National Guard

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SD Guard's 211th Engineer Company changes command

MADISON, S.D. – Capt. Christopher Olson, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 211th Engineer Company at a Sept. 9 change of command ceremony at Dakota State University in Madison.

Olson assumed responsibility from Capt. Christopher Schimke, of Wessington Springs, who served in the position since September 2014.

Olson started his officer career with the 211th as a platoon leader before moving into the executive officer role. He then moved to the 153rd Engineer Battalion where he served in the personnel section before coming back to the 211th to take command.

"Reset year is behind you and it's time to project out 2-3 years in training. It will be both challenging and rewarding in learning our new roles as platoons," Olson said to the 211th, referring to the unit transitioning from a Sapper Company to a Mobility Augmentation Company. "We have very capable leaders and a lot will be expected of you but you will leave the drill weekends with a sense of accomplishment."

Schimke encouraged the Soldiers and leadership to embrace the new opportunity and continue to be the best National Guard unit.

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



Capt. Christopher Olson (U.S. Army National Guard file photo)



160909-Z-ZZ999-019: U.S. Army First Sgt. John Dornbusch, center, 211th Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, passes the unit guidon to incoming commander Capt. Christopher Olson, during a change of command ceremony in Madison, S.D., Sept 9, 2016. The passing of the colors symbolizes the new commander's assumption of control of the unit. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Austin Slaughter)



160909-Z-ZZ999-003: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Trent Bruce, left, battalion commander of the 153rd Engineer Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, presents Capt. Christopher Schimke, right, the outgoing company commander of the 211th Engineer Company, with a Meritorious Service Medal during a change of command ceremony in Madison, S.D., Sept 9, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Austin Slaughter)

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